

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

DIVISION OF BIOLOGY

August 4, 1959

Dear Josh,

This is to tell you that September 12 or thereabouts is OK as far as I am concerned for the Westex-4 meeting.

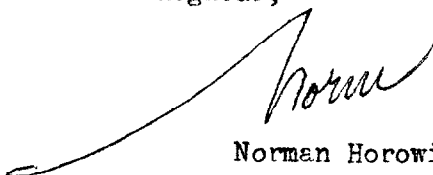
Concerning tolerances, I had arrived at 10^{-5} for the expectation of contaminating a planet (per shot). I started with slightly different assumptions from yours and would not argue with 10^{-6} . Obviously, we should strive for the lowest possible expectation, but I imagine that this is going to be a case where we will have to accept a compromise between the ideal and the practical. I wonder how reliably one can estimate the probable contamination load of a large, complicated object?

I have not been able to get steamed up about the back-contamination problem.

Now that it seems certain that there will be nothing in the way of deep space probes for a year or longer, it would be useful to find out what is being planned by the astronomical group in the way of study of planetary atmospheres from earth satellites, balloons, etc. Dick Davies seems to think that the astronomical program is being directed toward stellar investigations. Can you find out if this is true? If it is, then something should be done to bring the program into balance.

Do you think any useful purpose might be served by inviting Matt Meselson to the next meeting?

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Norman', written in dark ink.

Norman Horowitz